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By Todd Loren

THE "ROCK LICENSING" INDUSTRY- AN INDUSTRY BASED ON A FALSE PREMISE!

When you buy a t-shirt at a concert, have you ever wondered why it costs so much? It's because of price-fixing by the four companies which completely control the business known as "rock licensing". These four companies are: Winterland (owned by MCA), Brockum (owned by a Canadian concert promoter, Michael Cohl), Great Southern (recently purchased by Polygram), and Nice Man (recently purchased by BMG, which owns the RCA label). These companies make deals with stadium and arena owners and concert promoters to guarantee them a monopoly on sales of all merchandise at rock concerts. Of course, if the concert-going public wants to pay those prices for such things, then that's their business. But they should be aware of the facts...

Outside the concert halls we see these companies overstepping their bounds. Yes, you can license, or "authorize" merchandise such as t-shirts, posters, etc., of public figures. However, the notion that the "licensed", or "authorized" version is legal, and any "unauthorized" items are illegal, is totally false.

It is this false premise stated above upon which the entire "rock licensing" industry is based.

The rock memoribilia buying public has been misled into believing that they have no option but to buy "authorized" versions of rock-related merchandise. The industry has labeled "unauthorized" items "bootleg" in order to create the impression that "unauthorized" means "illegal". This is clever propaganda, nothing more. If we were talking about copyrighted characters such as Mickey Mouse, or Ninja Turtles, or Batman, that would've been different. The law is much clearer on these items, and unauthorized merchandise based on such characters WOULD BE illegal (but don't tell that to Dan O'Neill whose *Air Pirates Funnies* , which showed Disney characters in very compromising positions, thwarted prosecution efforts by Disney's lawyers!). However, the idea that public figures (rock stars) are entitled to the same copyright protection as Mickey Mouse or Ninja Turtles is false! Rock licensors have succeeded in intimidating people into thinking that these names and likenesses can be controlled as if they were fictional characters. They are doing this through threats, blackmail, and leveraged monopolistic power-plays.

> *The truth is, the rock merchandise consumer has a right to choose between licensed or non-licensed.*

Store owners and retail chains across America have been intimidated by hordes of lawyers into believing that only "licensed" rock items are legal. In many cases, the companies which monopolize rock licensing have confiscated so-called "bootleg" material by walking into stores and removing (stealing) the product. (It happened to me when I had a rock memoribilia store in San Diego. I was selling 90% "licensed" merchandise, and about 10% non-licensed. I was not at the store when it happened, but my employees told me, a couple of thugs from Great Southern came in, waving around a bunch of papers indicating all of the companies they "busted", as some kind of "proof" that they had right to do this, and they just took dozens of t-shirts, and off they went! This scenario was repeated hundreds of times all over the country! Not only are these tactics unethical, and illegal, but think of what the employees must think! Think of what the customers must think! It does irreparable harm to the reputation of a small businessman, who, let's face it, has enough problems without this kind of harrassment!)

By the way, the list of companies they "busted" had nothing to do with any kind of legal rights, it was just a list of companies which were so intimidated by Great Southern's tactics (and they probably didn't have the money to fight them in court), that they just said "Hell with it!", and settled with Great Southern rather than fight them, even though they were dead wrong!

Even if they were RIGHT, even if they had absolute proof that the people selling these so-called "bootleg" items were wrong, it still wouldn't justify these tactics! You can't just go into someone's place of business, while the owner is absent, and confiscate merchandise! Business owners deserve to have due process! You can't collect a judgment without a hearing first!

The truth is, the rock merchandise consumer has a right to choose between licensed or non-licensed. If he wants to pay more for a licensed (please see page 31)

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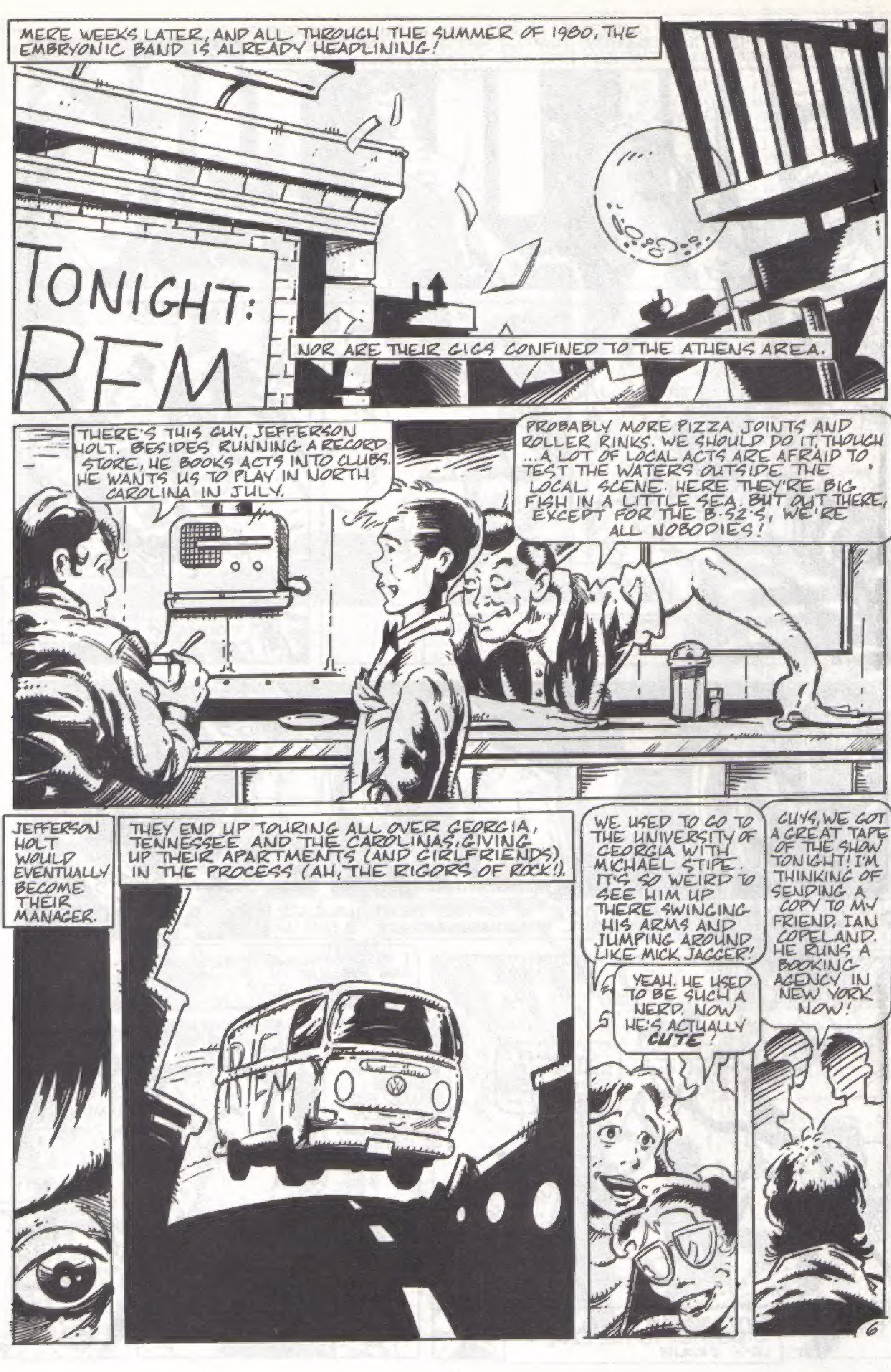
POLICE 18 PRECINCT
"THE TIME: 11 A.M. THE CITY: BOSTON. I SPENT FIVE WATER-LOGGED HOURS SLOSHING ABOUT THE STREETS LIKE A DUMPLING IN A STEW, SCOURING THE SEEDY 'MUSIC DISTRICT' IN SEARCH OF OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL.
ROCK N' ROLL COMICS PRESENTS:
R.E.M.
JAY ALLEN SANFORD WRITER
BLACKWELL ARTIST
TODD LOREN EDITOR
MARY KELLEHER- LETTERER
"FINALLY, AT TOWER RECORDS I FOUND ALL THE EVIDENCE I NEED, EVERY R.E.M. ALBUM TO DATE. NOW TO FIND OUT IF THESE OUT-SPOKEN ROCK RADICALS ARE A MENACE TO FREE SOCIETY!
STAND
R.E.M.
"NOW THAT I'VE BEEN PROMOTED TO HEAD OF THE ROCK POLICE, I, SERGEANT HAROLD MISTRETTA, HAVE VOWED TO SCREEN, INVESTIGATE AND ASSIST IN PROSECUTING ANY REPORTED CASES OF DANGEROUS ROCK MUSIC!
"AND IF ANY BAND IS INFLAMMATORY, THIS BUNCH OF COLLEGIATE 'FREE-THINKERS' IS IT!
"BETTER CHECK MY LATEST COMMUNICATION FROM FEARLESS LEADER #1."

"GOOD EVENING, MR. MISTRETTA. NOW, THEN, READ MY LIPS... :AHEM:... YOUR MISSION, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT, IS TO INVESTIGATE THAT INSCRUTABLE FOURSOME KNOWN AS...
R.E.M.
"DOES THEIR NAME STAND FOR SOMETHING SUBVERSIVE LIKE "RADICAL EVOLUTIONIST MARXISTS"? 'REAR END MEN'?
"THEIR SINGER, AND APPARENT LEADER, IS ONE MICHAEL STIPE. AN ITINERANT ARMY BRAT, YOUNG STIPE IS SHY AND WITHDRAWN, BUT WITH AN ARTISTIC STREAK. HIS FAMILY MOVED ABOUT THE THE COUNTRY BEFORE SETTLING IN ATHENS, GEORGIA IN 1978, WHERE HE TAKES PAINTING AND PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA.
"THEN THERE IS SAN FRANCISCO-RAISED PETER BUCK. HE IS ALREADY AN AVID MUSIC BUFF AND RECORD COLLECTOR WHEN HE MOVES WITH HIS FAMILY, AT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN, TO ROSWELL, GEORGIA. BUCK PLAYS GUITAR, BUT IS OFTEN INTIMIDATED BY HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, KENNY, A CLASSICAL PRODIGY.
"BASSIST MIKE MILLS, FROM A MUSICAL FAMILY (DAD IS A TENOR, MOM PLAYS PIANO AND GUITAR), IS A STRAIGHT "A" STUDENT WHO MOVES TO ATHENS WITH HIS SOMETIMES BANDMATE AND BEST FRIEND...
"DRUMMER BILL BERRY. BILL IS, LIKE MIKE, A FAN OF GROUPS LIKE THE VELVET UNDERGROUND AND PATTI SMITH. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS GROUP, REFER TO THE ENCLOSED COMIC BOOK, PUT OUT BY THE SUSPICIOUSLY NAMED **REVOLUTIONARY COMICS**. THIS TAPE WILL SELF-DESTRUCT IN THREE SECONDS."
R.E.M.
I ***HATE*** IT WHEN THEY DO THAT!!

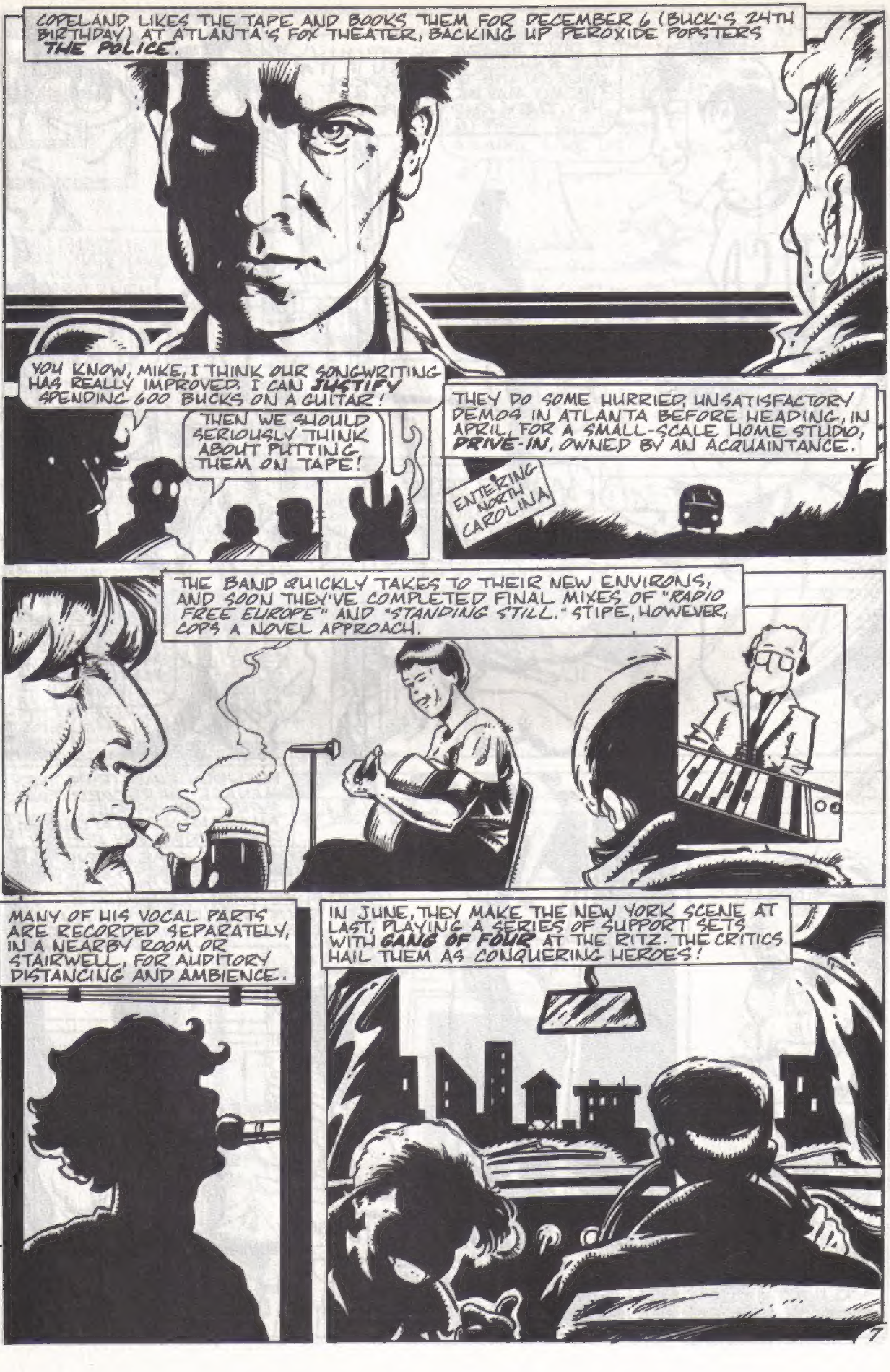
JANUARY 1978. BUCK LIVES IN ATHENS WITH HIS BROTHER, AND WORKS AT WUXTRY'S RECORD STORE.
USING HIS MOM'S CREDIT CARD, HE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RESERVES SEATS FOR HIMSELF AND A FRIEND AT THE SEX PISTOLS' TOUR OPENER IN ATLANTA. BUT UPON ARRIVING...
TONIGHT THE SEX PISTO
YOU WHAT? YOU SOLD OUR TICKETS?!
OLD OUT
THE HELL WITH THIS. WE'RE SEEING THIS SHOW, PETER!
THEY CRASH THE SHOW, AND BUCK IS LATER BEATEN BY SECURITY GUARDS. "PRETTY MUCH THE QUINTESSENTIAL SEX PISTOLS EXPERIENCE," AS HE WOULD LATER SAY.
MEANWHILE, MICHAEL STIPE IS ENGROSSED IN HIS PAINTING CLASS. HIS TEACHER IS JIM HERBERT (WHO WOULD LATER DIRECT MANY OF THEIR VIDEOS).
YOU HAVE A REAL GIFT FOR VISUAL EXPRESSION, MICHAEL.
STIPE OFTEN SHOPS AT THE RECORD STORE WHERE PETER BUCK WORKS...
SO, MICHAEL, HAVE YOU HEARD PATTI SMITH'S "HORSES"?
ARE YOU KIDDING, PETE? I SAT UP ALL NIGHT WHEN I FIRST GOT IT, LISTENING WITH MY PARENTS' HEADPHONES AND OBSESSIVELY EATING CHERRIES 'TIL I PUKED!
I LOVE THAT KIND OF FREE-FORM MUSIC. ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!... I OFTEN THINK OF STARTING UP MY OWN GROUP!
ME, TOO, BUT I'VE NEVER FOUND THE RIGHT GROUP OF GUYS TO PLAY WITH.

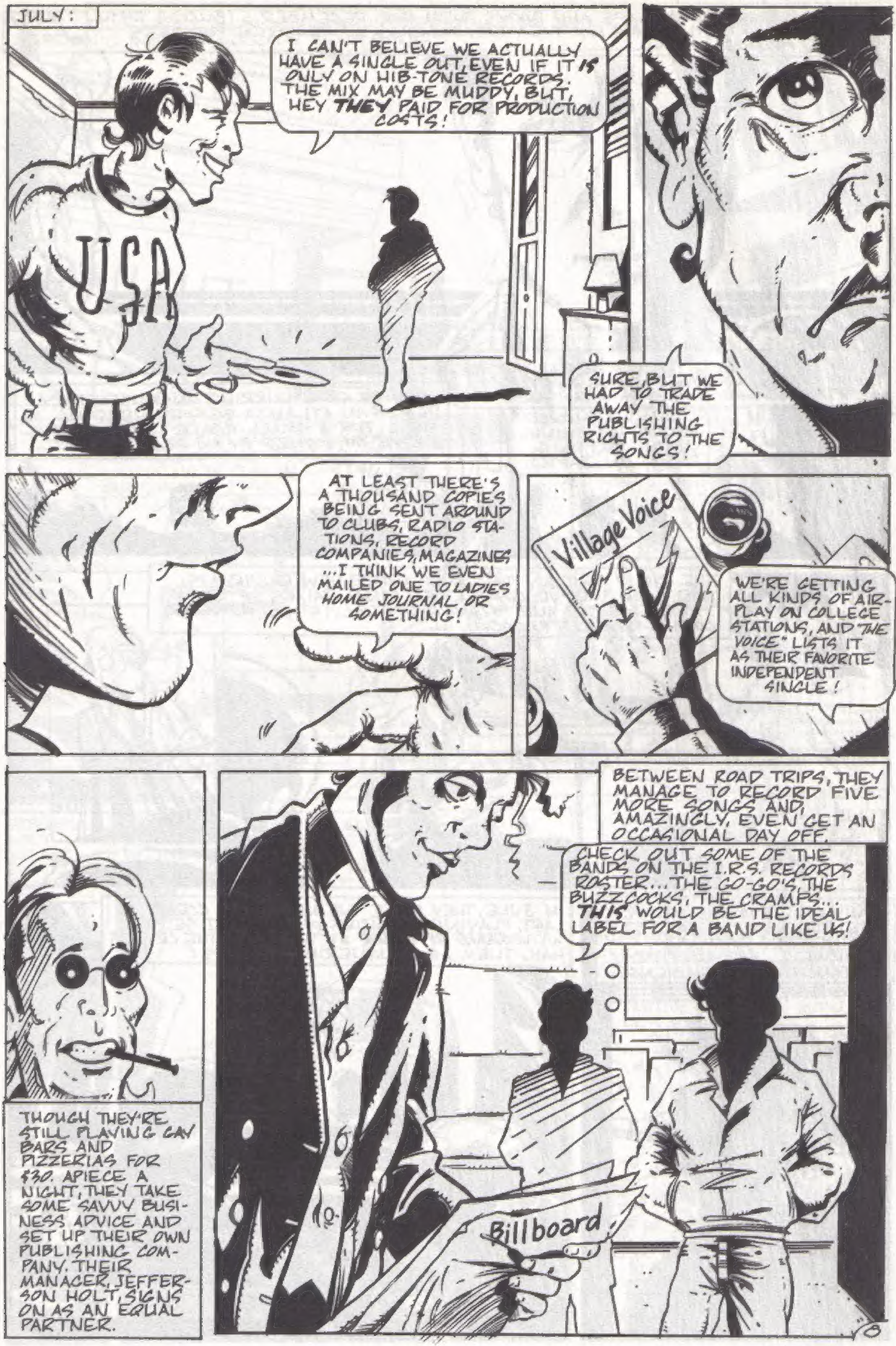
IN OCTOBER 1979, STIPE AND BUCK (ALONG WITH BUCK'S BROTHER KENNY AND TWO YOUNG LADY FRIENDS) MOVE INTO A PARTIALLY CONVERTED EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON OCONEE STREET (AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE UNIVERSITY).
ONE OF THE GIRL ROOMIES INTRODUCES STIPE TO BILL BERRY IN JANUARY 1980.
I HEAR YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD DRUMMER, BILL. KNOW ANY BASSISTS?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, MY BEST FRIEND PLAYS. HIS NAME'S MIKE MILLS.
THE FOUR OF THEM GET TOGETHER IN THE LARGE OPEN AREA AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH TO JAM. THEY OFFICIALLY DECLARE THEMSELVES "A BAND" MOMENTS AFTER THAT FIRST HEADY ROCK-OUT.
THAT WAS TERRIFIC, GUYS!
THAT'S PRECISELY THE KIND OF MUSIC I'D ALWAYS IMAGINED MAKING! DID YOU NOTICE HOW WE ALL SEEMED TO SUPERNATURALLY KNOW WHAT EVERYONE ELSE WAS ABOUT TO PLAY?
IT WAS AS IF WE'D BEEN PLAYING TOGETHER FOR YEARS!
Y'KNOW, WE'RE THROWING A PARTY HERE IN THE CHURCH DURING APRIL. MAYBE WE COULD JAM THE HOUSE A LITTLE!
YEAH!

THE PARTY HAPPENS ON A SATURDAY NIGHT, AND IS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. THE FIRST TWO BANDS, TURTLE BOY AND SIDE EFFECTS GET THE CROWD WELL-PSYCHED FOR THE NAMELESS THIRD ACT.
THE SET IS HIGHLIGHTED BY NUMEROUS COVER SONGS. WHEN THEY RUN OUT OF TUNES, THEY INVITE FRIENDS UP FROM THE AUDIENCE TO JAM!
I-YI-YI-YI-I'M NOT YER STEPPING STONE!
HMMMMM.
IN THE AUDIENCE IS THE BOOKING AGENT FOR A LOCAL CLUB SHOWCASE, TYRONE'S.
ON APRIL 19, THEY'RE INVITED TO PLAY THE KOFFEE CLUB. HOWEVER, IT'S A SUNDAY NIGHT AND ALCOHOL IS BEING SERVED... A NO-NO IN GEORGIA.
AWRIGHT! HANDS UP! THIS IS A RAID!!
BUT TYRONE'S IS STILL VERY INTERESTED IN THE NAME-LESS GROUP.
I NEED SOMEONE TO BACK UP THE BRAINS. DO YOU HAVE A NAME YET?
R.E.M.
WHAT'S THAT STAND FOR? "RAPID EYE MOVEMENT"?
THAT'S THE BEAUTY! IT COULD STAND FOR VIRTUALLY ANYTHING! OR NOTHING!
NO SOLUTION TO THE MYSTERY OF THEIR NAME HERE!



MERE WEEKS LATER, AND ALL THROUGH THE SUMMER OF 1980, THE EMBRYONIC BAND IS ALREADY HEADLINING!
TONIGHT: REM
NOR ARE THEIR GIGS CONFINED TO THE ATHENS AREA.
THERE'S THIS GUY, JEFFERSON HOLT. BESIDES RUNNING A RECORD STORE, HE BOOKS ACTS INTO CLUBS. HE WANTS US TO PLAY IN NORTH CAROLINA IN JULY.
PROBABLY MORE PIZZA JOINTS AND ROLLER RINKS. WE SHOULD DO IT, THOUGH ...A LOT OF LOCAL ACTS ARE AFRAID TO TEST THE WATERS OUTSIDE THE LOCAL SCENE. HERE THEY'RE BIG FISH IN A LITTLE SEA. BUT OUT THERE, EXCEPT FOR THE B-52'S, WE'RE ALL NOBODIES!
JEFFERSON HOLT WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME THEIR MANAGER.
THEY END UP TOURING ALL OVER GEORGIA, TENNESSEE AND THE CAROLINAS, GIVING UP THEIR APARTMENTS (AND GIRLFRIENDS) IN THE PROCESS (AH, THE RIGORS OF ROCK!).
REM
WE USED TO GO TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA WITH MICHAEL STIPE. IT'S SO WEIRD TO SEE HIM UP THERE SWINGING HIS ARMS AND JUMPING AROUND LIKE MICK JAGGER!
YEAH. HE USED TO BE SUCH A NERD. NOW HE'S ACTUALLY **CUTE**!
GUYS, WE GOT A GREAT TAPE OF THE SHOW TONIGHT! I'M THINKING OF SENDING A COPY TO MY FRIEND, IAN COPELAND. HE RUNS A BOOKING AGENCY IN NEW YORK NOW!


COPELAND LIKES THE TAPE AND BOOKS THEM FOR DECEMBER 6 (BUCK'S 24TH BIRTHDAY) AT ATLANTA'S FOX THEATER, BACKING UP PEROXIDE POPSTERS THE POLICE.
YOU KNOW, MIKE, I THINK OUR SONGWRITING HAS REALLY IMPROVED. I CAN JUSTIFY SPENDING 600 BUCKS ON A GUITAR!
THEN WE SHOULD SERIOUSLY THINK ABOUT PUTTING THEM ON TAPE!
THEY DO SOME HURRIED, UNSATISFACTORY DEMOS IN ATLANTA BEFORE HEADING, IN APRIL, FOR A SMALL-SCALE HOME STUDIO, DRIVE-IN, OWNED BY AN ACQUAINTANCE.
ENTERING NORTH CAROLINA
THE BAND QUICKLY TAKES TO THEIR NEW ENVIRONS, AND SOON THEY'VE COMPLETED FINAL MIXES OF "RADIO FREE EUROPE" AND "STANDING STILL." STIPE, HOWEVER, COPS A NOVEL APPROACH.
MANY OF HIS VOCAL PARTS ARE RECORDED SEPARATELY, IN A NEARBY ROOM OR STAIRWELL, FOR AUDITORY DISTANCING AND AMBIENCE.
IN JUNE, THEY MAKE THE NEW YORK SCENE AT LAST, PLAYING A SERIES OF SUPPORT SETS WITH GANG OF FOUR AT THE RITZ. THE CRITICS HAIL THEM AS CONQUERING HEROES!

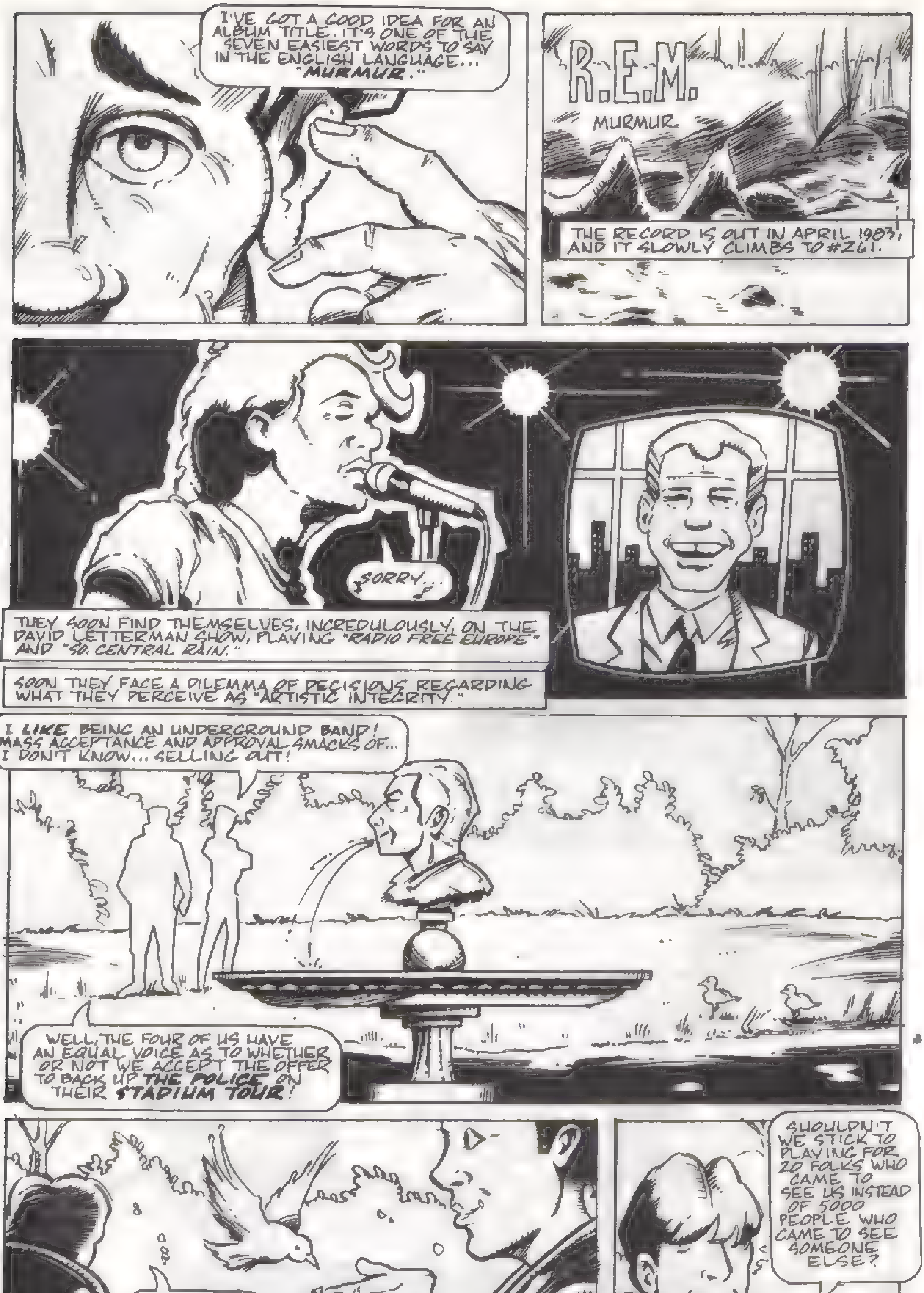


JULY:
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE ACTUALLY HAVE A SINGLE OUT, EVEN IF IT IS ONLY ON HIB-TONE RECORDS. THE MIX MAY BE MUDDY, BUT, HEY THEY PAID FOR PRODUCTION COSTS!
SURE, BUT WE HAD TO TRADE AWAY THE PUBLISHING RIGHTS TO THE SONGS!
AT LEAST THERE'S A THOUSAND COPIES BEING SENT AROUND TO CLUBS, RADIO STATIONS, RECORD COMPANIES, MAGAZINES ...I THINK WE EVEN MAILED ONE TO LADIES HOME JOURNAL OR SOMETHING!
Village Voice
WE'RE GETTING ALL KINDS OF AIR-PLAY ON COLLEGE STATIONS, AND "THE VOICE" LISTS IT AS THEIR FAVORITE INDEPENDENT SINGLE!
THOUGH THEY'RE STILL PLAYING GAY BARS AND PIZZERIAS FOR $30. APIECE A NIGHT, THEY TAKE SOME SAVVY BUSINESS ADVICE AND SET UP THEIR OWN PUBLISHING COMPANY. THEIR MANAGER, JEFFERSON HOLT, SIGNS ON AS AN EQUAL PARTNER.
BETWEEN ROAD TRIPS, THEY MANAGE TO RECORD FIVE MORE SONGS AND, AMAZINGLY, EVEN GET AN OCCASIONAL DAY OFF.
CHECK OUT SOME OF THE BANDS ON THE I.R.S. RECORDS ROSTER... THE GO-GO'S, THE BUZZCOCKS, THE CRAMPS... THIS WOULD BE THE IDEAL LABEL FOR A BAND LIKE US!
Billboard
8

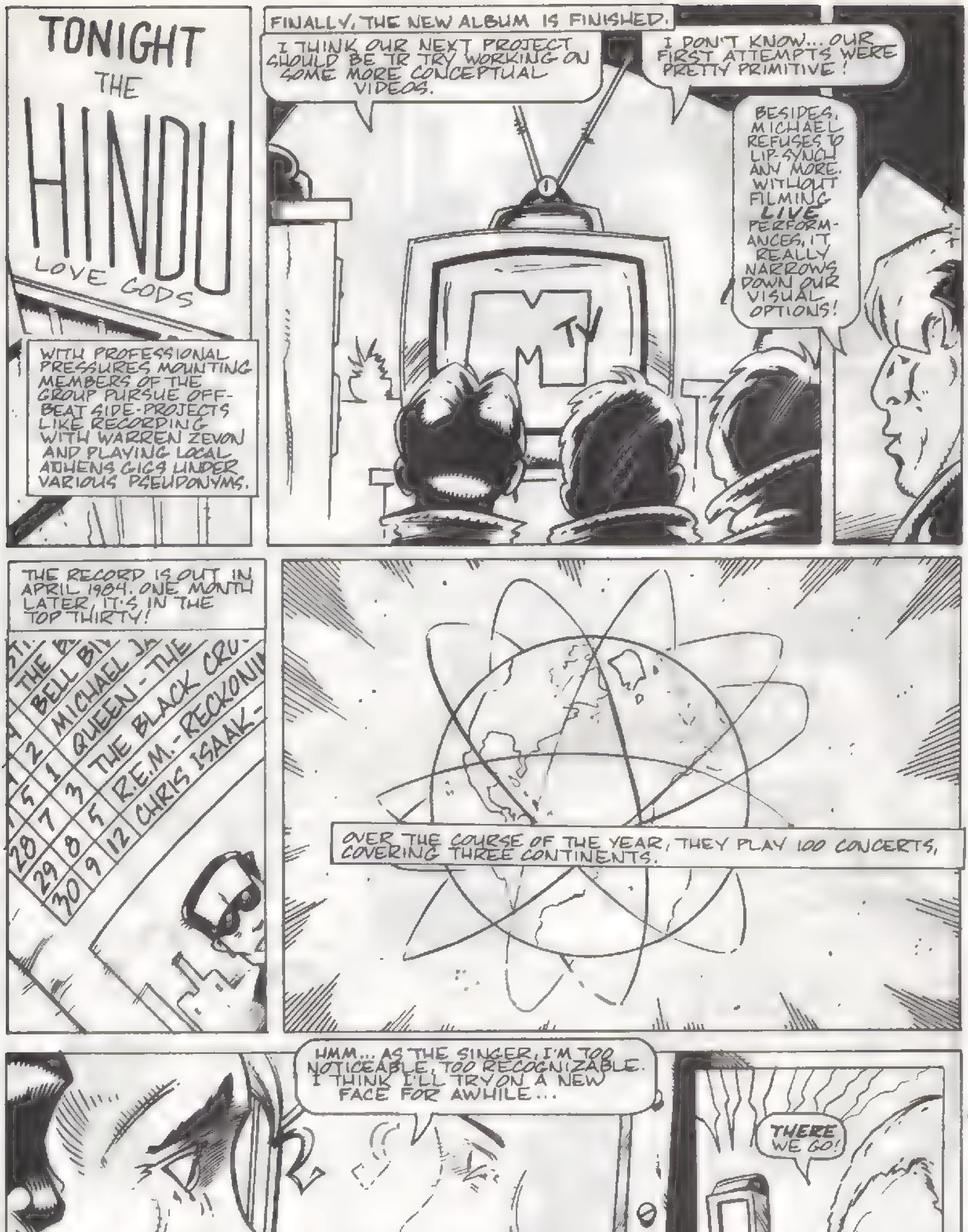
INDEED, I.R.S. IS INTERESTED IN **THEM**, TOO, ESPECIALLY AFTER AN ATLANTA D.J. PERSONALLY RECOMMENDS THE GROUP TO I.R.S. VICE PRESIDENT...
THIS WOULD BE AN IDEAL BAND FOR A LABEL LIKE US!
BUT FIRST, IN FEBRUARY 1982, THEY TAKE RCA UP ON AN EARLIER OFFER TO RECORD THEM.
IT'S NICE TO BE IN SUCH A FULLY-STOCKED STUDIO, BUT I'M LOSING SOME OF THE JANGLY "BYRDSY" SOUND I USED TO GET.
YEAH, I'M GLAD WE'RE STILL DOING SOME OF OUR **OWN** RECORDING DOWN AT DRIVE-IN STUDIOS.
GOOD THING... I JUST GOT WORD THAT RCA IS DROPPING OUR OPTION!
UNDAUNTED, THE BAND RETURNS TO THE ROAD CIRCUIT. IN NEW ORLEANS, THEY PLAY A DIVE CALLED **BEAT EXCHANGE**. THE CROWD IS DRUNK, THE EQUIPMENT FAILS, AND THE P.A. MAN DISAPPEARS MIDWAY THROUGH THE TROUBLE-PLAGUED SET.
BACKSTAGE...
MICHAEL STIPE? HI, I'M JAY BOBERG FROM I.R.S. RECORDS.
DRESSING ROOM
I WAS **AFRAID** OF THAT...

LATER...
SO, THAT'S THE OFFER. WE HELP YOU RE-RELEASE THE E.P. AND YOU SIGN ON FOR FIVE ALBUMS, WHILE WE SPRING FOR MAXIMUM PROMOTION.
WELL, THERE'S STILL A PROBLEM WITH "RADIO FREE EUROPE" AND "STANDING STILL."
YEAH, ON PAPER THOSE RIGHTS BELONG TO HIB-TONE RECORDS.
A LITTLE BAD BLOOD IS SPILLED, BUT THE BAND EVENTUALLY MANAGES TO EXTORT THOSE RIGHTS BACK FROM HIB-TONE.
THEY SIGN WITH I.R.S. IN MAY 1982. THE PROLIFIC, AGGRESSIVE LABEL OFFERS THEM UNPRECEDENTED ARTISTIC CONTROL, AND THE BAND WAIVES LARGE ADVANCES IN ORDER TO SECURE LONG-TERM ROYALTIES AND OWNERSHIP.
THEY'RE THE ONLY COMPANY WHO DIDN'T SAY, "CUT YOUR HAIR AND STOP WEARING DIRTY CLOTHES, AND I CAN TURN YOU INTO DURAN DURAN!"
THEY ENTER INTO INTENSIVE RECORDING, THOUGH STIPE MANAGES TO FIND TIME TO MOONLIGHT WITH VARIOUS LOCAL EXPERIMENTAL GROUPS.
IN AUGUST, THE 'CHRONIC TOWN' E.P. IS OUT.
LIKE THEIR PROTO-PUNK IDOLS THE VELVET UNDERGROUND AND THE NEW YORK DOLLS, THEIR FAME SPREADS FIRST THROUGH THE STREETS...
CHRONIC TOWN
10

CALIFORNIA
THE BAND PICKS UP SOME DATES IN CALIFORNIA, AND THUS BEGINS A CROSS-CULTURAL ODYSSEY.
GEORGIA
TEXAS
AT AN AIR FORCE BASE IN TEXAS, ONE CULTURE CLASH PROVES OMINOUS.
JEEZUS, THIS IS REALLY GETTING UGLY.
PLAY ONE MORE SONG LIKE THAT AND YOU'LL DIE, FAGGOTS!
THEY ESCAPE THE ESCALATING MADNESS OF THE ROAD BY SEQUESTERING THEMSELVES AT REFLECTION STUDIO IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, TO RECORD THEIR FIRST FULL L.P.
WELL, THIS HAS BEEN A REAL ABOUT-FACE FOR US! MORE ACOUSTIC GUITARS, SOME CELLOS... A SOLID MONTH OF COMPOSING AND RECORDING!


I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA FOR AN ALBUM TITLE. IT'S ONE OF THE SEVEN EASIEST WORDS TO SAY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE... "MURMUR."
R.E.M.
MURMUR
THE RECORD IS OUT IN APRIL 1983, AND IT SLOWLY CLIMBS TO #261.
SORRY...
THEY SOON FIND THEMSELVES, INCREDULOUSLY, ON THE DAVID LETTERMAN SHOW, PLAYING "RADIO FREE EUROPE" AND "SO. CENTRAL RAIN."
SOON THEY FACE A DILEMMA OF DECISIONS REGARDING WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS "ARTISTIC INTEGRITY."
I LIKE BEING AN UNDERGROUND BAND! MASS ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL SMACKS OF... I DON'T KNOW... SELLING OUT!
WELL, THE FOUR OF US HAVE AN EQUAL VOICE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT WE ACCEPT THE OFFER TO BACK UP THE POLICE ON THEIR STADIUM TOUR!
US? IN JFK AND SHEA STADIUMS?!
SHOULDN'T WE STICK TO PLAYING FOR 20 FOLKS WHO CAME TO SEE US INSTEAD OF 5000 PEOPLE WHO CAME TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE?
12

MORE COMMERCIALLY-MINDED HEADS PREVAIL, AND THEY PLAY SEVEN OF THE MEGA-GIGS.
IT WAS HORRIBLE! BAD LIGHTS, BAD SOUND, RAIN IN NEW YORK...
AND BEING THIRD ON THE BILL, WITH ONLY TWENTY MINUTES TO PLAY!
IN NOVEMBER 1983, THEY STORM THE SHORES OF BRITAIN, APPEARING ON THE TUBE TELEVISION SHOW AND DOING A BRIEF, BUT WELL-ATTENDED, TOUR.
WOW! STONE RATED "MURMUR" OVER MICHAEL JACKSON AND U2!
THAT'S A COMPLIMENT?
MOST OF THE SECOND L.P. IS RECORDED AT REFLECTION STUDIOS, OFTEN IN FIRST AND SECOND TAKES. ONCE AGAIN, STIPE RECORDS MANY OF HIS VOCALS FROM ANOTHER ROOM.
I WAS SINGING THAT ONE NAKED!
!!!!!!

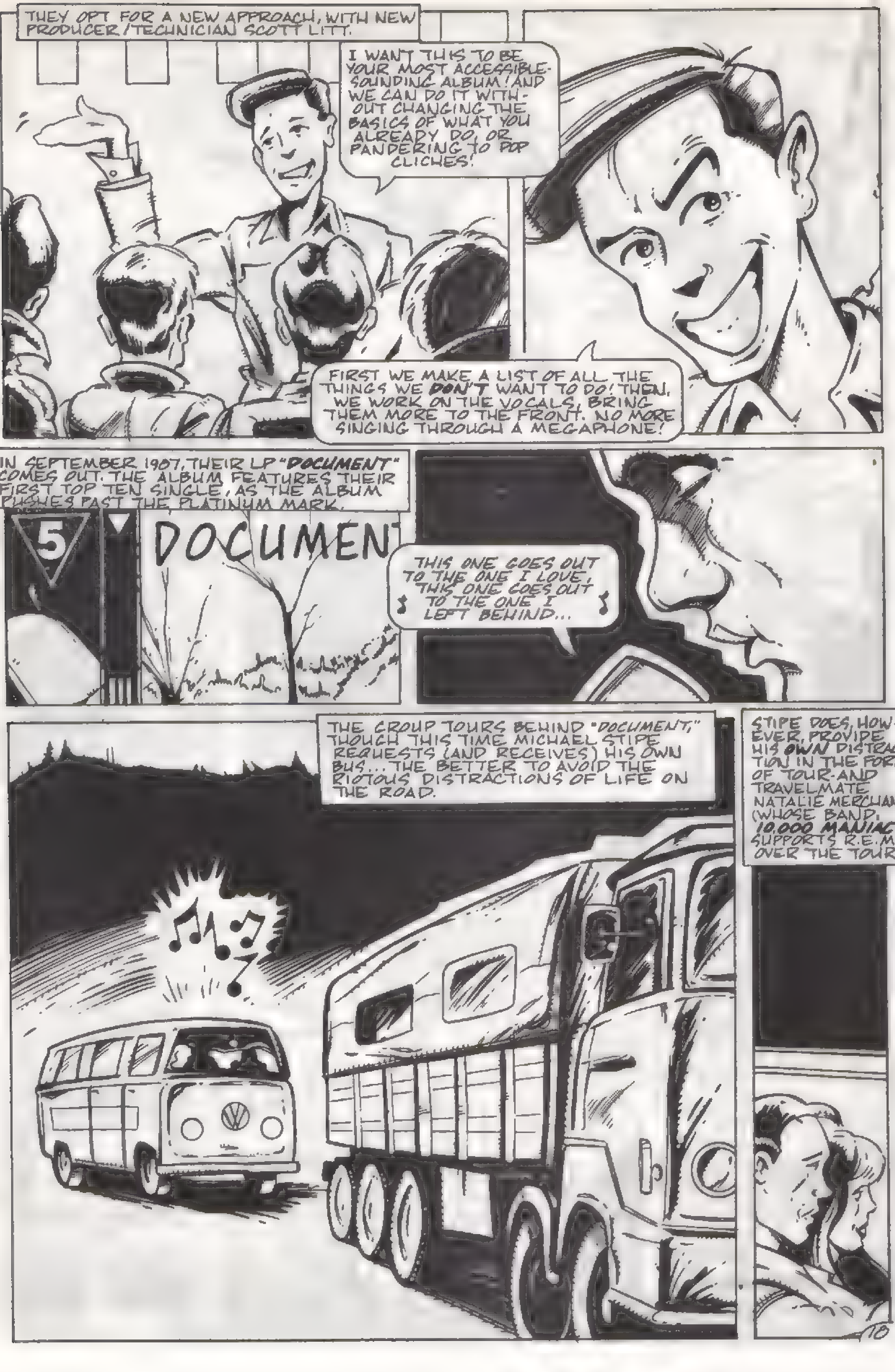


TONIGHT THE HINDU LOVE GODS
WITH PROFESSIONAL PRESSURES MOUNTING MEMBERS OF THE GROUP PURSUE OFF-BEAT SIDE-PROJECTS LIKE RECORDING WITH WARREN ZEVON AND PLAYING LOCAL ATHENS GIGS UNDER VARIOUS PSEUDONYMS.
FINALLY, THE NEW ALBUM IS FINISHED.
I THINK OUR NEXT PROJECT SHOULD BE TR TRY WORKING ON SOME MORE CONCEPTUAL VIDEOS.
I DON'T KNOW... OUR FIRST ATTEMPTS WERE PRETTY PRIMITIVE!
BESIDES, MICHAEL REFUSES TO LIP-SYNCH ANY MORE. WITHOUT FILMING LIVE PERFORMANCES, IT REALLY NARROWS DOWN OUR VISUAL OPTIONS!
MTV
THE RECORD IS OUT IN APRIL 1984. ONE MONTH LATER, IT'S IN THE TOP THIRTY!
BELL BIV
MICHAEL J
QUEEN - THE
THE BLACK CRU
R.E.M.-RECKONIN
CHRIS ISAAK-
OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, THEY PLAY 100 CONCERTS, COVERING THREE CONTINENTS.
HMM... AS THE SINGER, I'M TOO NOTICEABLE, TOO RECOGNIZABLE. I THINK I'LL TRYON A NEW FACE FOR AWHILE...
THERE WE GO!

SPRING 1985 FINDS THEM RECORDING AGAIN, THIS TIME IN LONDON.
THE PRESSURE NOW IS **UNBELIEVABLE**, FROM WITHIN **AND** WITHOUT!
IN JUNE, THEY ONCE AGAIN DIP THEIR TOES IN THE OCEAN OF STADIUM FESTIVALS, BACKING UP U2 (THOUGH THEY STILL SQUEEZE IN CLUB DATES ON THEIR OFF-NIGHTS).
ALSO THAT MONTH, "FABLES OF THE RECONSTRUCTION" IS OUT (WITH A STIPE-DESIGNED SLEEVE), ANOTHER TOP 30 SELLER. THEIR VIDEO FOR "YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE" IS THEIR MOST-SEEN CLIP YET.
ECONSTRUCTIO
THOUGH THEY BREAK FROM TOURING, EVERYONE KEEPS BUSY OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. BUCK OCCASIONALLY WORKS AT WUXTRY'S, AND TAKES HIS PAY IN ALBUMS.
EVEN AS BUCK BREAKS UP WITH HIS GIRL OF SIX YEARS, BILL BERRY TAKES THE PLUNGE BY TYING THE KNOT WITH HIS GREATEST PARAMOUR, MARY.

MICHAEL STIPE HAS AN EXHIBITION OF HIS PHOTOS SHOWN AT VARIOUS GALLERIES.
MIKE MILLS SERVES AS THEIR ANCHOR TO R.E.M., PRODDING THEM WHEN THE TIME COMES TO RETURN TO THE STUDIO IN EARLY 1986.
LISTEN, HOW WOULD EVERY-ONE FEEL ABOUT TRYING A NEW PRO-DUCER, IN INDIANA THIS TIME...
WE ARE YOUNG, DESPITE THE YEARS, WE ARE CONCERN. WE ARE HOPE, DESPITE THE TIME.
THE COUNTRY LOCATION IS A RELIEF AFTER THE UN-HAPPY LONDON SESSIONS. SOME OF THEIR FINEST TRACKS ARE LAID DOWN THAT SPRING!
WELL, THE RECORD STILL NEEDS A TITLE. HAS EVERY-ONE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUGGESTION LIST?
I KIND OF LIKE THE LINE THAT SOMEBODY COPIED DOWN FROM THE PETER SELLERS "INSPECTOR CLOUSEAU" FILM... "WE'RE ALL A PART OF LIFE'S RICH PAGEANT."
USA
"LIFE'S RICH PAGEANT" IS OUT IN JULY, AND PEAKS AT #21 (THOUGH IT CONTAINS NO CERTIFIABLE HIT SINGLE), BECOMING THEIR FIRST GOLD RECORD!

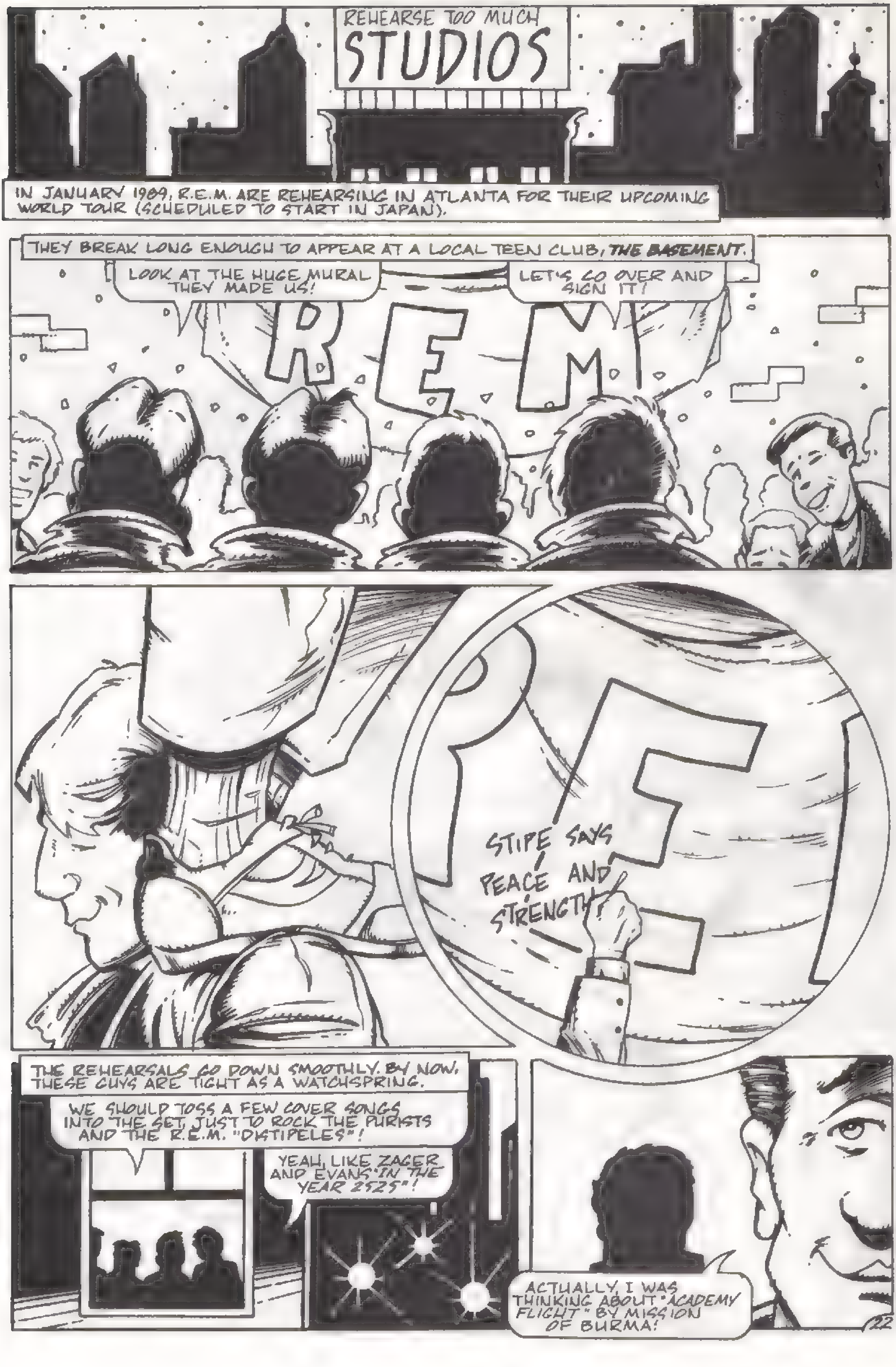
STIPE'S ENIGMATIC PERSONALITY LENDS ITSELF WELL TO THE HEAVY PRESS INTEREST.
SO, MR. STIPE, HOW HAS SUCCESS AFFECTED YOUR CREATIVITY?
WELL, DO YOU KNOW THAT PART IN **BRAZIL** WHERE ROBERT DeNIRO GETS SWALLOWED UP BY ALL THOSE PAPERS AND DISAPPEARS?
THAT'S MY LIFE. I'M SURROUNDED BY PAPER! SO I PICK OFF WHATEVER GETS STUCK TO MY FACE WHEN I CUT MYSELF SHAVING, PUT IT DOWN ON THE TABLE, AND THAT TURNS INTO A SONG!
IS HE GENUINE OR JUST SELF-CONSCIOUSLY ACTING MYSTERIOUS?
THE LATTER PART OF 1986 FINDS THEM TOURING RELENTLESSLY AGAIN.
I WAS READING A RECORD ALBUM PRICE GUIDE THE OTHER DAY... OUR EARLY HIB-TONE RECORD IS WORTH EIGHTY BUCKS! AND THERE ARE BOOTLEGS FLOATING AROUND WITH FIRST TAKES AND DEMOS...
WE SHOULD COLLECT ALL THE B-SIDES AND RARITIES FOR THE FANS AND COLLECTORS!
THE RESULT IS THEIR COMPILATION ALBUM, **DEAD LETTER OFFICE**, OUT IN APRIL 1907.
A COLLECTION OF THEIR FILM PROMOS AND LIVE CLIPS LIKEWISE HITS THE VIDEO STORES.
NEW R.E.M. VIDEO
R.E.M. SUCCUMBS
AGAIN, FROM HIS LIVING ROOM, MIKE MILLS ROUNDS UP THE CREW FOR ANOTHER GO-ROUND.
GUMBY
WELL, ASK THE GUYS WHO **THEY** THINK OUR NEW PRODUCER SHOULD BE! DO WE REALLY WANT SOMETHING THAT JUST SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER R.E.M. RECORD?!


THEY OPT FOR A NEW APPROACH, WITH NEW PRODUCER/TECHNICIAN SCOTT LITT.
I WANT THIS TO BE YOUR MOST ACCESSIBLE-SOUNDING ALBUM! AND WE CAN DO IT WITHOUT CHANGING THE BASICS OF WHAT YOU ALREADY DO, OR PANDERING TO POP CLICHES!
FIRST WE MAKE A LIST OF ALL THE THINGS WE DON'T WANT TO DO! THEN, WE WORK ON THE VOCALS, BRING THEM MORE TO THE FRONT. NO MORE SINGING THROUGH A MEGAPHONE!
IN SEPTEMBER 1907, THEIR LP "DOCUMENT" COMES OUT. THE ALBUM FEATURES THEIR FIRST TOP TEN SINGLE, AS THE ALBUM PUSHES PAST THE PLATINUM MARK.
5
DOCUMENT
THIS ONE GOES OUT TO THE ONE I LOVE, THIS ONE GOES OUT TO THE ONE I LEFT BEHIND...
THE GROUP TOURS BEHIND "DOCUMENT," THOUGH THIS TIME MICHAEL STIPE REQUESTS (AND RECEIVES) HIS OWN BUS... THE BETTER TO AVOID THE RIOTOUS DISTRACTIONS OF LIFE ON THE ROAD.
STIPE DOES, HOWEVER, PROVIDE HIS OWN DISTRACTION IN THE FORM OF TOUR-AND TRAVELMATE NATALIE MERCHANT (WHOSE BAND, 10,000 MANIACS, SUPPORTS R.E.M. OVER THE TOUR).

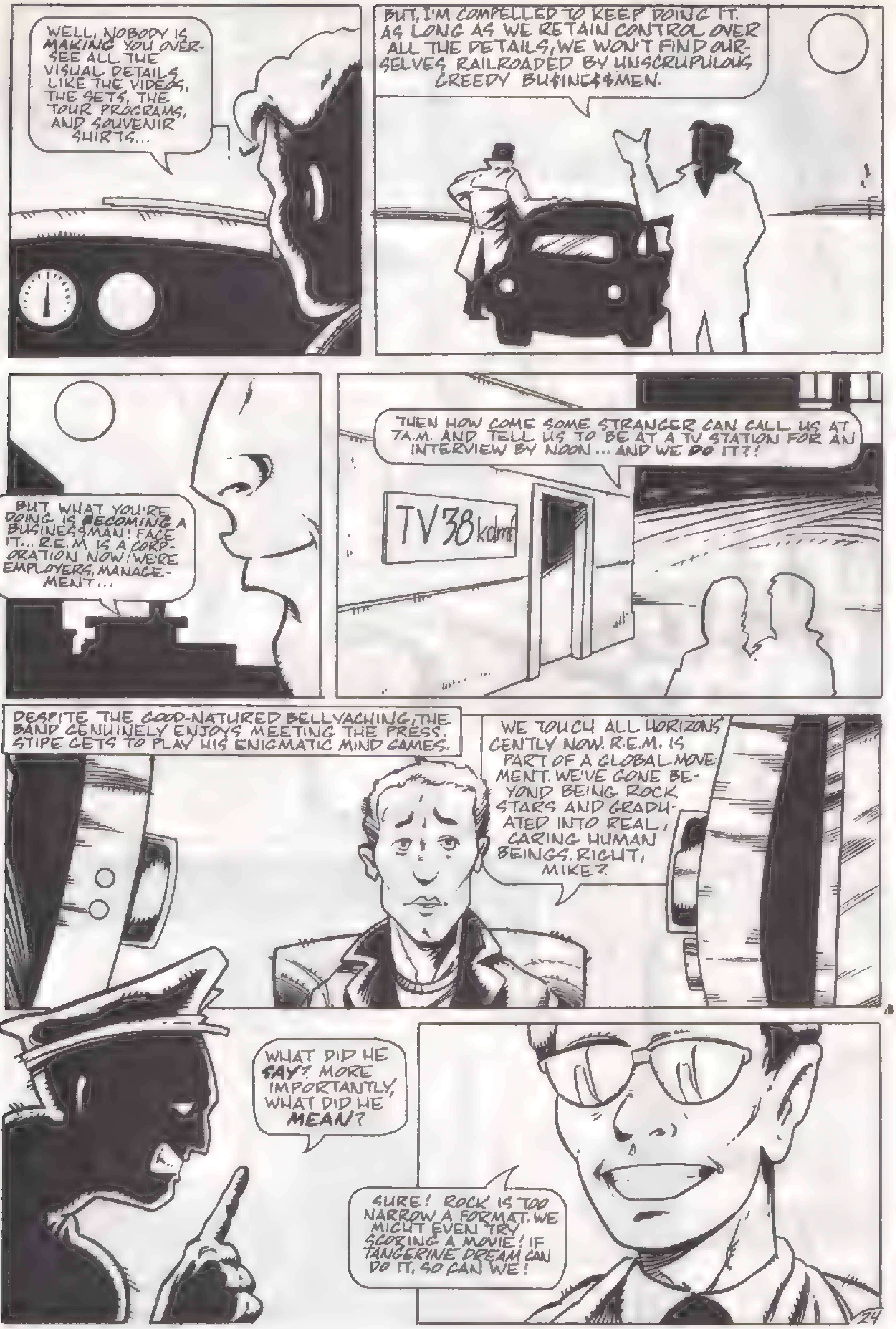
*NOW KNOWN AS TIME-WARNER, AFTER MERGING WITH TIME-LIFE. —WALL STREET TODD

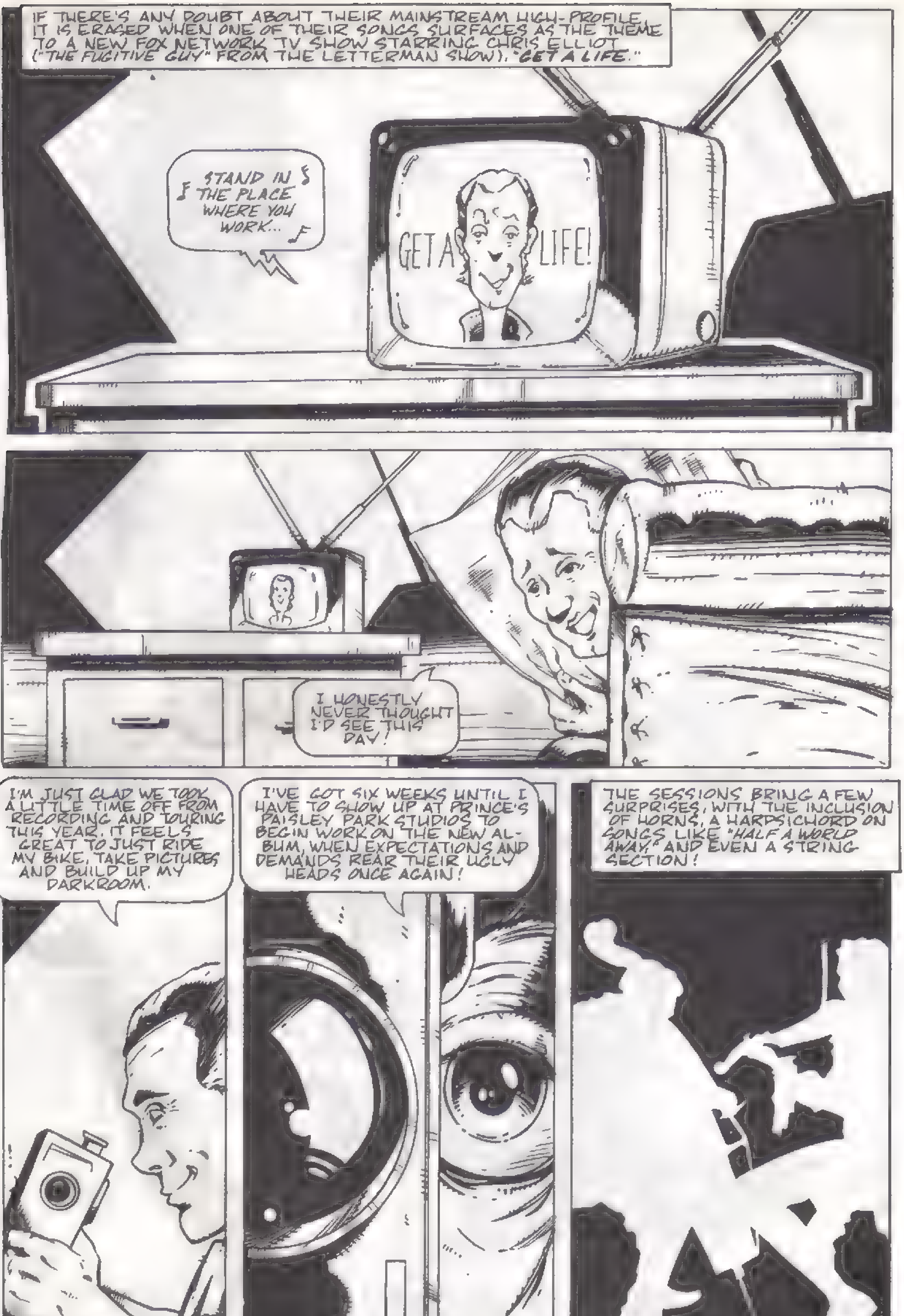
THEY RECORD IN MEMPHIS, WITH SCOTT LITT ONCE AGAIN PRODUCING, OFTEN SWITCHING INSTRUMENTS FOR NEW EFFECTS AND SOUNDS AS THEY LAY DOWN FUTURE CLASSICS LIKE "STAND."
STAND IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE...
Y'KNOW, GUYS, MY FAVORITE TITLE FOR THIS ONE SO FAR IS "GREEN." AFTER ALL, WE TALK A LOT IN THE LYRICS AND ON THE SLEEVE ABOUT ECOLOGICAL POLITICS.
THE GROUP LIMITS THEIR TOURING IN '88. EVERYONE IS BUSY DOING SESSIONS, BUYING HOMES, AND, IN BUCK'S CASE, GETTING MARRIED (TO HIS GIRL, BARRIE, CO-OWNER OF AN ATHENS NIGHTCLUB, THE 40-WATT CLUB).
IN OCTOBER, I.R.S. MAKES THEIR LAST RUN WITH THE R.E.M. PACK BY RELEASING A COMPILATION ALBUM (COMPRISED OF ALTERNATE TAKES AND SOUNDTRACK STUFF).
R.E.M.
eponymous
IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS (AND THE RELEASE OF THEIR NEW WARNER LABEL RECORD "GREEN") STIPE BUYS A SERIES OF ADS IN COLLEGE PAPERS IN GEORGIA AND CALIFORNIA.
STIPE SAYS: "DON'T GET BUSHWHACKED. GET OUT AND VOTE. VOTE SMART. VOTE DUKAKIS!"

ON ELECTION DAY, 1988...
WELL, THE ALBUM AND SINGLE ARE FINALLY OUT. I WONDER HOW WE'LL DO THIS TIME ON THE MERRY-GO-ROUND?
NEW ARRIVAL: REM'S GREEN
NOT TO WORRY. BOTH GO PLATINUM!
THEY PREPARE TO TOUR BEHIND "GREEN," ALONG WITH NEWLY-HIRED GUITARIST/KEYBOARDIST, PETER HOLSAPPLE (OF THE dB'S).
YOU KNOW, BILL, IT BUGS ME THAT SO FEW PEOPLE SEEM TO LISTEN TO MICHAEL'S LYRICS!
YEAH, THEY STILL ACCUSE HIM OF MUMBLING AND USING OBLIQUE NON-SEQUITURS.
LIKE "ORANGE CRUSH" IS REALLY ABOUT THAT KILLER HERBICIDE THEY USED IN VIETNAM, BUT EVERYONE THINKS IT'S ABOUT THE SOFT DRINK!
SOMETIMES WE'RE ACCUSED OF BEING TOO SERIOUS, BUT WHEN YOU'RE IN A POSITION LIKE WE ARE, IT HELPS TO HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT AND TOPICAL TO SAY ONCE IN AWHILE, INSTEAD OF JUST "I LOVE YOU, CHECK OUT MY CAR."
WELL, IT'S TIME TO TAKE OUR "MESSAGE" TO THE STREETS AGAIN. WE HAVEN'T DONE ANY LIVE SHOWS IN WELL OVER A YEAR!


REHEARSE TOO MUCH STUDIOS
IN JANUARY 1989, R.E.M. ARE REHEARSING IN ATLANTA FOR THEIR UPCOMING WORLD TOUR (SCHEDULED TO START IN JAPAN).
THEY BREAK LONG ENOUGH TO APPEAR AT A LOCAL TEEN CLUB, THE BASEMENT.
LOOK AT THE HUGE MURAL THEY MADE US!
LET'S GO OVER AND SIGN IT!
R.E.M.
STIPE SAYS PEACE AND STRENGTH!
THE REHEARSALS GO DOWN SMOOTHLY. BY NOW, THESE GUYS ARE TIGHT AS A WATCHSPRING.
WE SHOULD TOSS A FEW COVER SONGS INTO THE SET, JUST TO ROCK THE PURISTS AND THE R.E.M. "DISTIPELES"!
YEAH, LIKE ZAGER AND EVANS' "IN THE YEAR 2525"!
ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING ABOUT "ACADEMY FLIGHT" BY MISSION OF BURMA!

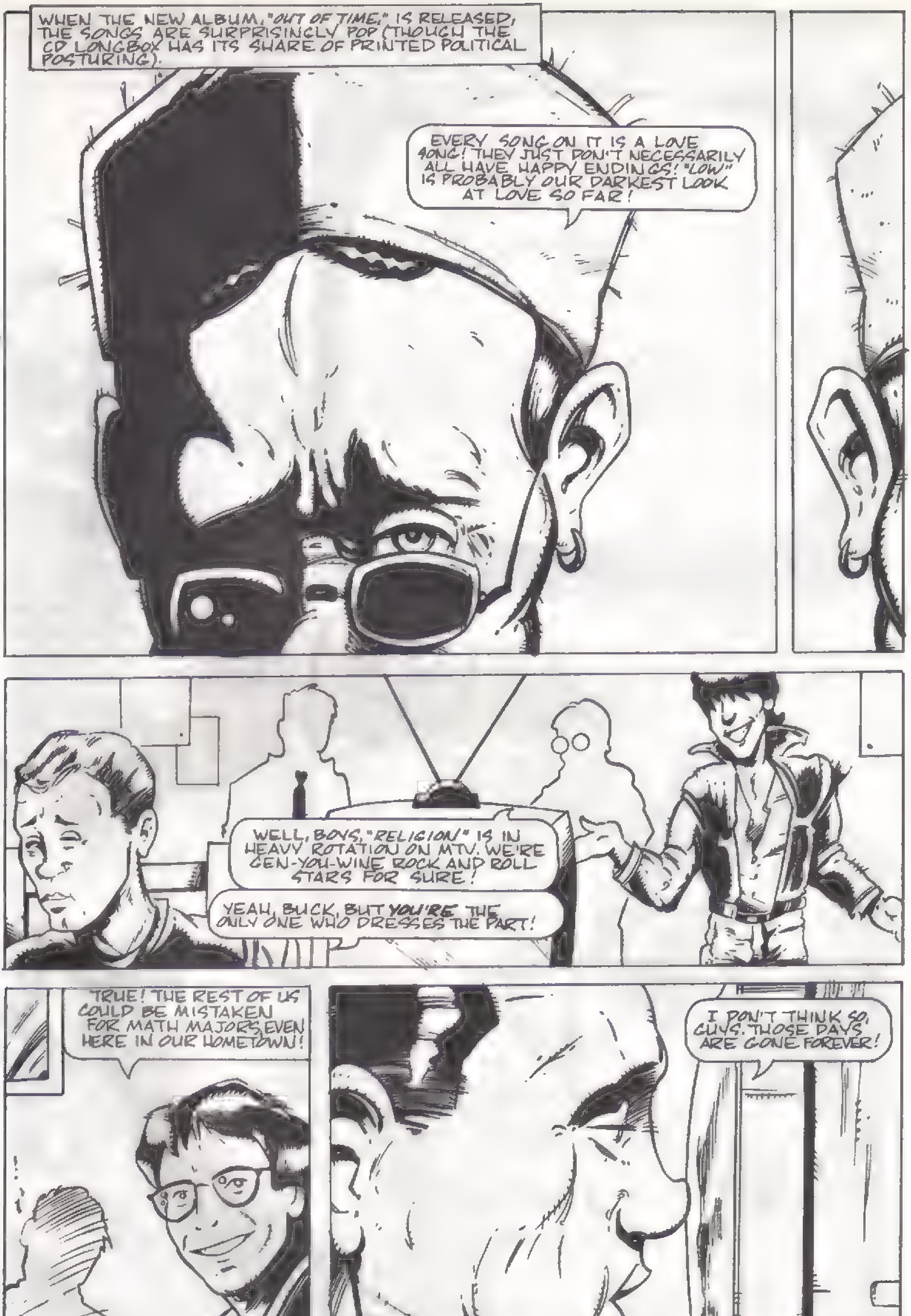
ON THE PERSONAL FRONT, HOWEVER, THERE ARE PROBLEMS. MIKE MILLS' MOTHER, WHO LIVES IN ATLANTA, IS ABOUT TO HAVE SURGERY.
I'M SORRY ABOUT MISSING REHEARSAL, BUT I'VE GOTTA GO DOWN AND SEE HER.
IGGY POP
BUCK LAMENTS HOW LITTLE TIME HE SPENDS AT HIS WHITE SOUTHERN PLANTATION HOME (NEAR ATHENS) WITH BOOKS, GUITARS, WIFE, R.E.M. CONCERT TAPES AND THREE CARS (A DODGE JEEP, A '57 CHEVY, AND A HEARSE!).
STILL, THEY PRESENT A PERFECT, CONTENTED PICTURE TO THE WORLD WHEN THEY APPEAR ON THE COVER OF THE APRIL '89 ISSUE OF ROLLING STONE.
ISSUE 550
1989
ALL FAME ASIDE, STIPE, WHO IS NOW NERVOUSLY APPROACHING HIS 30TH BIRTHDAY, STILL DRIVES HIS GREY VOLVO STATION WAGON. HE ALSO STILL REFUSES TO RIDE IN A LIMO OR LIP SYNCH.
THE PRESSURE'S WORSE THAN EVER, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I'M DESIGNING THE SLEEVES AND EVERYTHING...

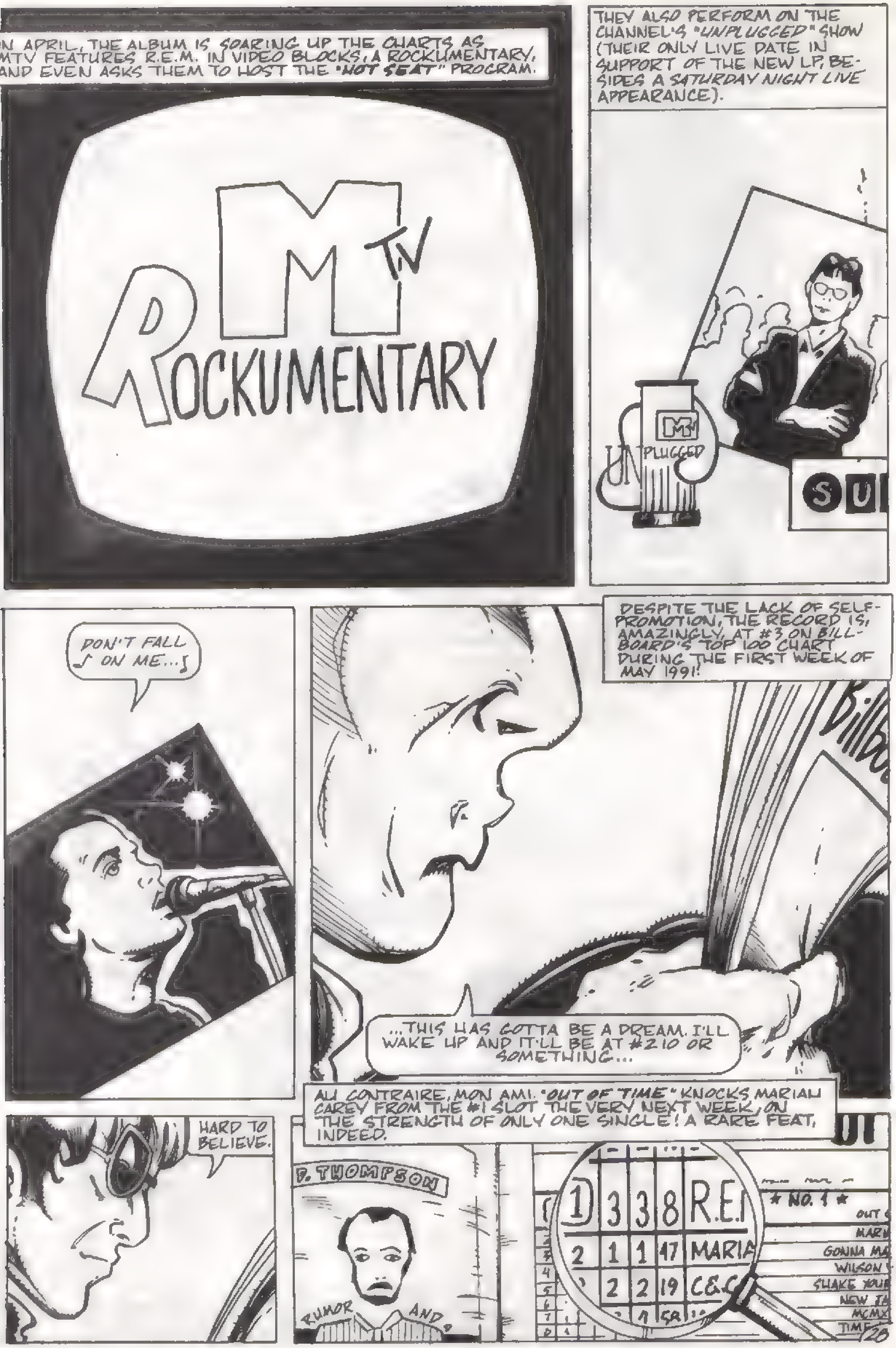

WELL, NOBODY IS MAKING YOU OVER-SEE ALL THE VISUAL DETAILS LIKE THE VIDEOS, THE SETS, THE TOUR PROGRAMS, AND SOUVENIR SHIRTS...
BUT, I'M COMPELLED TO KEEP DOING IT. AS LONG AS WE RETAIN CONTROL OVER ALL THE DETAILS, WE WON'T FIND OUR-SELVES RAILROADED BY UNSCRUPULOUS GREEDY BU$INE$$MEN.
BUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS BECOMING A BUSINESSMAN! FACE IT... R.E.M IS A CORP-ORATION NOW! WE'RE EMPLOYERS, MANAGE-MENT...
THEN HOW COME SOME STRANGER CAN CALL US AT 7A.M. AND TELL US TO BE AT A TV STATION FOR AN INTERVIEW BY NOON... AND WE DO IT?!
TV 38 kdmf
DESPITE THE GOOD-NATURED BELLYACHING, THE BAND GENUINELY ENJOYS MEETING THE PRESS. STIPE GETS TO PLAY HIS ENIGMATIC MIND GAMES.
WE TOUCH ALL HORIZONS GENTLY NOW. R.E.M. IS PART OF A GLOBAL MOVE-MENT. WE'VE GONE BE-YOND BEING ROCK STARS AND GRADU-ATED INTO REAL, CARING HUMAN BEINGS. RIGHT, MIKE?
WHAT DID HE SAY? MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT DID HE MEAN?
SURE! ROCK IS TOO NARROW A FORMAT. WE MIGHT EVEN TRY SCORING A MOVIE! IF TANGERINE DREAM CAN DO IT, SO CAN WE!



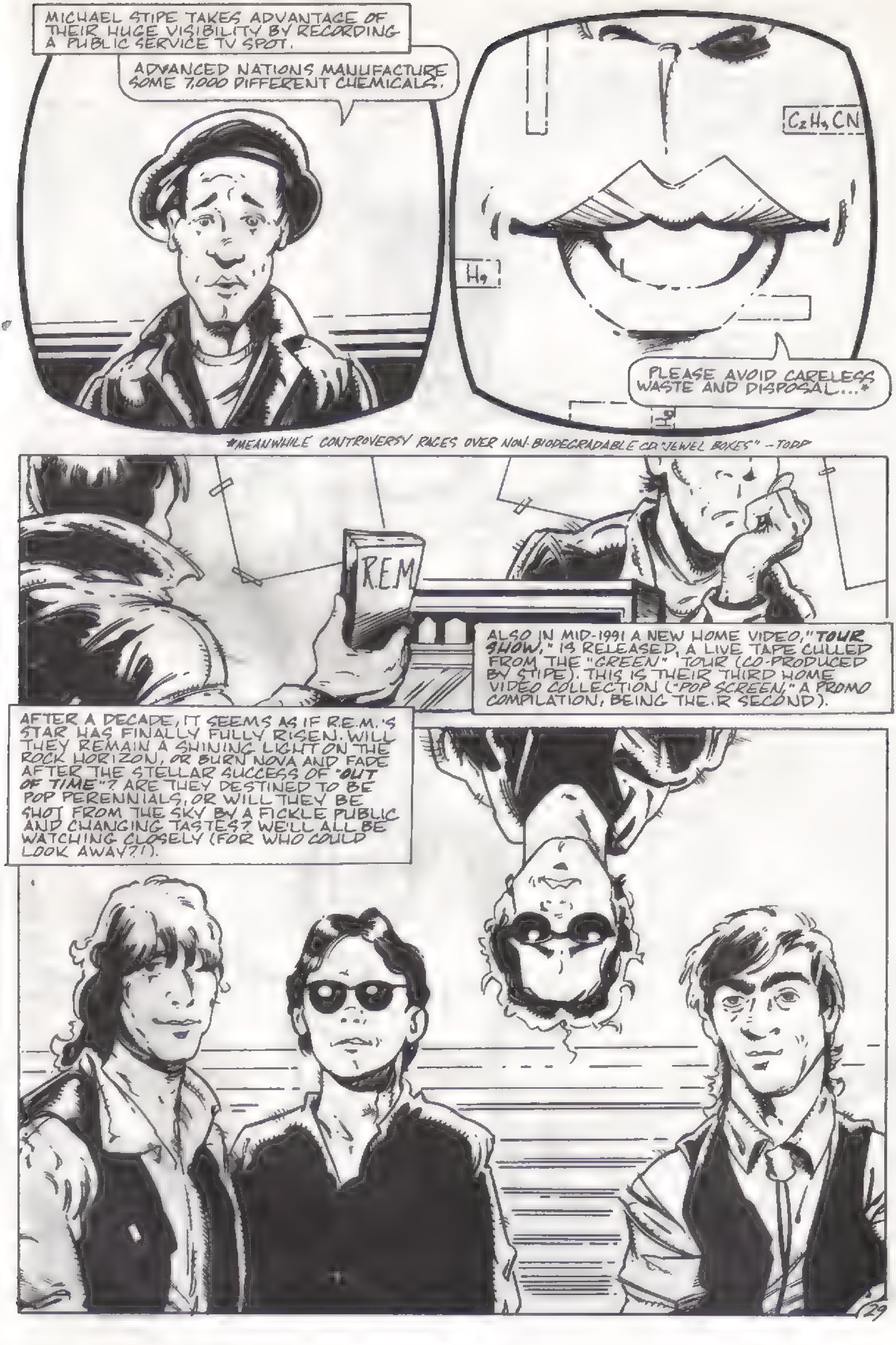
IF THERE'S ANY DOUBT ABOUT THEIR MAINSTREAM HIGH-PROFILE, IT IS ERASED WHEN ONE OF THEIR SONGS SURFACES AS THE THEME TO A NEW FOX NETWORK TV SHOW STARRING CHRIS ELLIOT ("THE FUGITIVE GUY" FROM THE LETTERMAN SHOW), "GET A LIFE."
STAND IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU WORK...
GET A LIFE!
I HONESTLY NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THIS DAY!
I'M JUST GLAD WE TOOK A LITTLE TIME OFF FROM RECORDING AND TOURING THIS YEAR. IT FEELS GREAT TO JUST RIDE MY BIKE, TAKE PICTURES AND BUILD UP MY DARKROOM.
I'VE GOT SIX WEEKS UNTIL I HAVE TO SHOW UP AT PRINCE'S PAISLEY PARK STUDIOS TO BEGIN WORK ON THE NEW ALBUM, WHEN EXPECTATIONS AND DEMANDS REAR THEIR UGLY HEADS ONCE AGAIN!
THE SESSIONS BRING A FEW SURPRISES, WITH THE INCLUSION OF HORNS, A HARPSICHORD ON SONGS LIKE "HALF A WORLD AWAY," AND EVEN A STRING SECTION!

FELLOW GEORGIAN KATE PIERSON (OF THE B-52'S) COMES IN TO SING A DUET WITH STIPE.
SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE...
THE FIRST SINGLE (AND TOUR DE FORCE VIDEO) IS "LOSING MY RELIGION."
THE SINGLE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT LEAP OFF THE RECORD WITHOUT EXPERIENCING A FEW PROBLEMS FIRST.
WARNER WANTS TO EDIT IT?! WHY, DON'T THEY THINK RADIO CAN HANDLE A SONG LONGER THAN THREE MINUTES?!?
THE BAND RELUCTANTLY ENTRUSTS THEIR PRODUCER, SCOTT LITT, WITH THE CUTTING.
SNIPP
I'VE DONE THREE ALBUMS WITH YOU GUYS. I CAN DO THIS. TRUST ME!
AAARRGHH!


WHEN THE NEW ALBUM, "OUT OF TIME," IS RELEASED, THE SONGS ARE SURPRISINGLY POP (THOUGH THE CD LONGBOX HAS ITS SHARE OF PRINTED POLITICAL POSTURING).
EVERY SONG ON IT IS A LOVE SONG! THEY JUST DON'T NECESSARILY ALL HAVE HAPPY ENDINGS! "LOW" IS PROBABLY OUR DARKEST LOOK AT LOVE SO FAR!
WELL, BOYS, "RELIGION" IS IN HEAVY ROTATION ON MTV. WE'RE GEN-YOU-WINE ROCK AND ROLL STARS FOR SURE!
YEAH, BUCK, BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO DRESSES THE PART!
TRUE! THE REST OF US COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR MATH MAJORS EVEN HERE IN OUR HOMETOWN!
I DON'T THINK SO, GUYS. THOSE DAYS ARE GONE FOREVER!



IN APRIL, THE ALBUM IS SOARING UP THE CHARTS AS MTV FEATURES R.E.M. IN VIDEO BLOCKS, A ROCKUMENTARY, AND EVEN ASKS THEM TO HOST THE "HOT SEAT" PROGRAM.
MTV
ROCKUMENTARY
THEY ALSO PERFORM ON THE CHANNEL'S "UNPLUGGED" SHOW (THEIR ONLY LIVE DATE IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW LP, BESIDES A SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE APPEARANCE).
MTV
UNPLUGGED
DON'T FALL ♪ ON ME... ♪
DESPITE THE LACK OF SELF-PROMOTION, THE RECORD IS, AMAZINGLY, AT #3 ON BILLBOARD'S TOP 100 CHART DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY 1991!
...THIS HAS GOTTA BE A DREAM. I'LL WAKE UP AND IT'LL BE AT #210 OR SOMETHING...
AU CONTRAIRE, MON AMI. "OUT OF TIME" KNOCKS MARIAH CAREY FROM THE #1 SLOT THE VERY NEXT WEEK, ON THE STRENGTH OF ONLY ONE SINGLE! A RARE FEAT, INDEED.
HARD TO BELIEVE.
P. THOMPSON
RUMOR AND
* NO. 1 *
1 3 3 8 R.E.
2 1 1 47 MARIA
2 2 19 C&C


MICHAEL STIPE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THEIR HUGE VISIBILITY BY RECORDING A PUBLIC SERVICE TV SPOT.
ADVANCED NATIONS MANUFACTURE SOME 7,000 DIFFERENT CHEMICALS.
C2H5CN
PLEASE AVOID CARELESS WASTE AND DISPOSAL...*
*MEANWHILE CONTROVERSY RAGES OVER NON-BIODEGRADABLE CD "JEWEL BOXES" --TODD
R.E.M.
ALSO IN MID-1991 A NEW HOME VIDEO, "TOUR SHOW," IS RELEASED, A LIVE TAPE CULLED FROM THE "GREEN" TOUR (CO-PRODUCED BY STIPE). THIS IS THEIR THIRD HOME VIDEO COLLECTION ("POP SCREEN," A PROMO COMPILATION, BEING THEIR SECOND).
AFTER A DECADE, IT SEEMS AS IF R.E.M.'S STAR HAS FINALLY FULLY RISEN. WILL THEY REMAIN A SHINING LIGHT ON THE ROCK HORIZON, OR BURN NOVA AND FADE AFTER THE STELLAR SUCCESS OF "OUT OF TIME"? ARE THEY DESTINED TO BE POP PERENNIALS, OR WILL THEY BE SHOT FROM THE SKY BY A FICKLE PUBLIC AND CHANGING TASTES? WE'LL ALL BE WATCHING CLOSELY (FOR WHO COULD LOOK AWAY?!).

THAT'S IT?!?! THERE'S NO EVIDENCE HERE I CAN USE TO CENSOR, LABEL OR PROSECUTE THESE GUYS!
THERE NEVER IS. I HATE THIS JOB SOMETIMES. MAYBE MY NEXT ASSIGNMENT WILL BE SOMETHING JUICIER, LIKE NWA... I WONDER WHAT THEIR NAME STANDS FOR?

(continued from inside front cover)

THE FACTS ABOUT "ROCK LICENSING"

Jon Bon Jovi shirt, that's his choice. It's also his choice to pay less for a non-licensed version.

A lot of people (in the music business particularly), have a hard time understanding the difference between a poster and a cd. Recording artists today want to have "total artistic control" over the production of an album. That's all fine and dandy. But it doesn't work when applied to merchandising. That's why "unauthorized" rock merchandise is often more popular than the "authorized" stuff. First of all, by the time everyone in the group, and management, and who-knows-who-else, approves the artwork and design for every single item, be it t-shirt, or poster, or trading card, or patch, or whatever, the "unauthorized" stuff has already been out there for months! When a group is hot, people want the t-shirts and posters NOW, not when the band and it's management, and licensing companies, and manufacturers can get around to figuring out what designs can be approved, what the royalty schedule will be, how much advance is to be paid, etc., etc. By the time they figure out all of this crap, their album is already old news, and the retailers who waited for the licensed stuff to come out wind up stuck with a bunch of stuff they can't sell, while those who bought the "unauthorized" stuff, made a killing! And why shouldn't they? Isn't that the American way- to provide a supply where there is a demand? Isn't that the way it should work? Those who are efficient, (the unauthorized manufacturers), see what's going on! They forecast the trends, get on the phone, and get their people working on new stuff so it hits the market <BAM!> right at the time the band is hot! Meanwhile the "authorized" folks are doing lunch and having meetings trying to figure out if the drummer in the band thinks the artwork on the buttons meets with his approval, and all that crap!

And then these licensing companies have ways of luring manufacturers into thinking that if they'll just pay $100,000 for the rights to produce some Bon Jovi stickers, or Michael Jackson 3D comic books, that they'll be rolling in dough in no time! Well, I know for a fact that this is a lot of bull! I know first-hand of many companies which spent thier last cent to get the rights to items such as these, expecting a windfall return, only to find that nobody wants the stuff! Their timing was off, or their distribution was lousy, or the licensees wouldn't help them GET any distribution, or whatever the case may be, they wound up throwing money out the window for licenses which they may not have had to even pay for, if they would've investigated what I'm talking about in this column! The list of companies which have gone under from overpaying for licensing rights is a long one! There are no refunds on these $100,000 down payments, folks! If you pay that kind of money for the rights to make a Kingdom Come t-shirt, and then Kingdom Come dies the death, you're screwed!

But they didn't *have* to be! If they would've just realized that public figures do not have the same copyright protection as Mickey Mouse, Ninja Turtles, Batman, Snoopy, etc., then they could've saved their business by producing "unauthorized" items, and having the nerve to FIGHT THE FUCKERS when they made their threats!

What's totally amazing here is the practically non-existent number of cases which actually make it to the courts! These licensing companies have a pattern of making threats and getting compliance without ANY actual legal opposition! NO ONE wants to go to court over this! I contacted a lawyer at the FTC who checked into this, and informed me that he could only find a record of ONE CASE which actually opposed Great Southern in court! That's a very sad state of affairs, but Great Southern uses it to their advantage, just like they did to us (see RNR 25 for full details).

What can you do about it? I'd like to suggest that you support your local dealer of unauthorized rock memoribilia, although there aren't very many of them left. Remember- you do have a choice. The licensed stuff is good, but it's not always the best. Learn how to tell the difference, and make your own choice! And don't automatically buy t-shirts at concerts! You don't NEED a t-shirt to prove that you've been to a concert. Peace.

PLUG AWAY!

Coming up in August and Sept.!

___ROCK N' ROLL COMICS

35- R.E.M. -You're reading it!

36- Michael Jackson

37- Ice T 38- Rod Stewart

39- The Fall Of The New Kids

40-N.W.A

___THE PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE 3 - Dark Side

___THE BEATLES EXPERIENCE

5- The solo years begin

___CONSPIRACY COMICS 1

___BASEBALL SUPERSTARS 1

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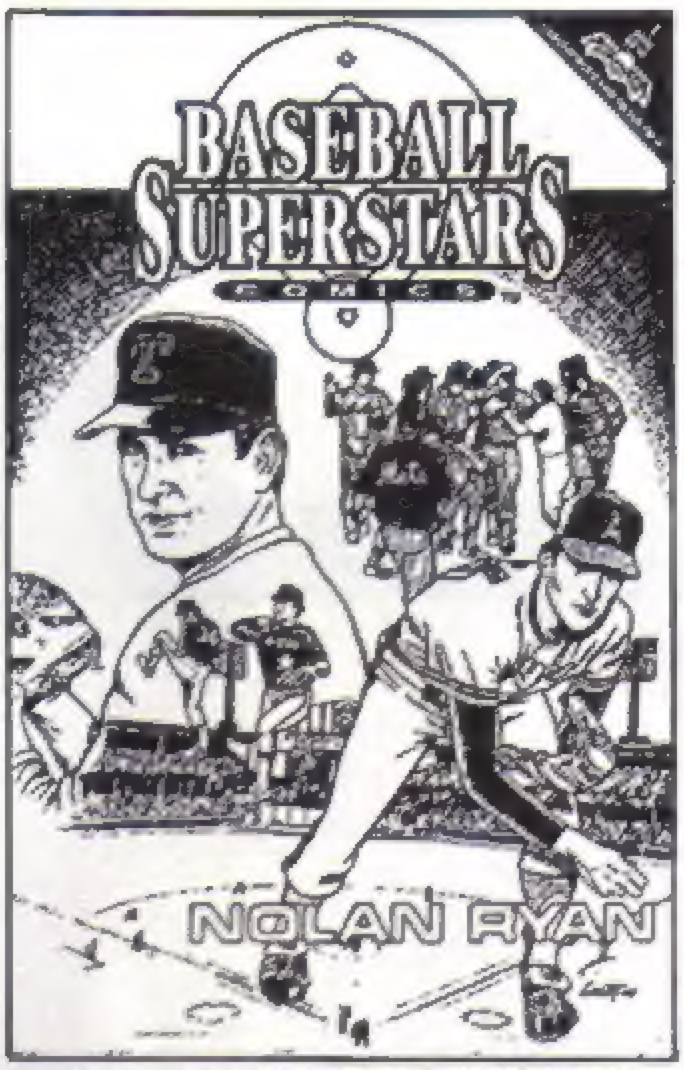


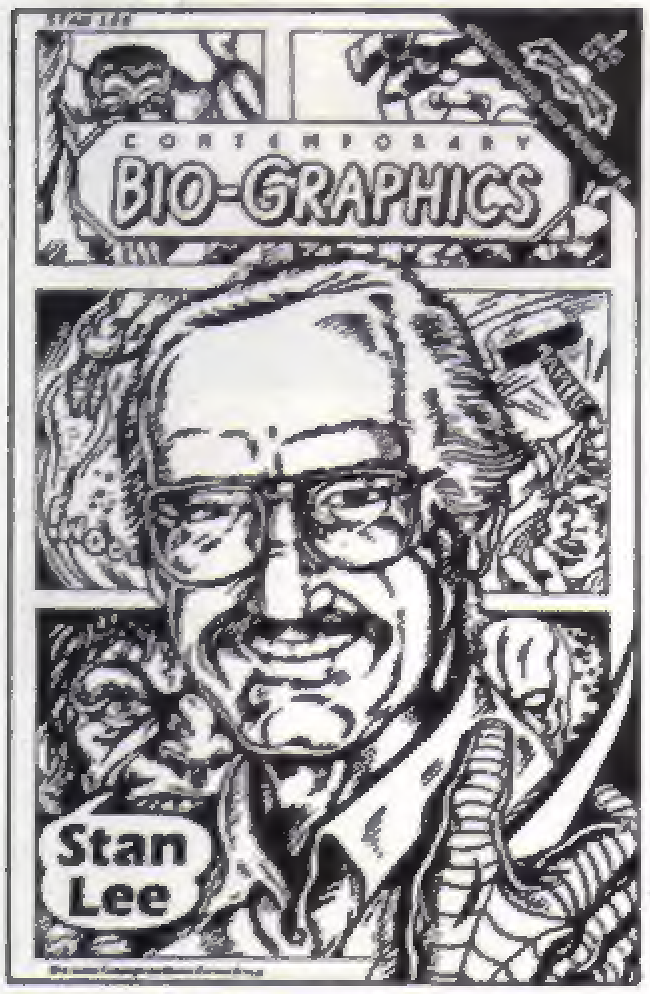
BASEBALL SUPERSTARS COMICS 1

BASEBALL SUPERSTARS 1
Featuring the story of NOLAN RYAN- ships in September!

PINEAPPLE PERFUME 1

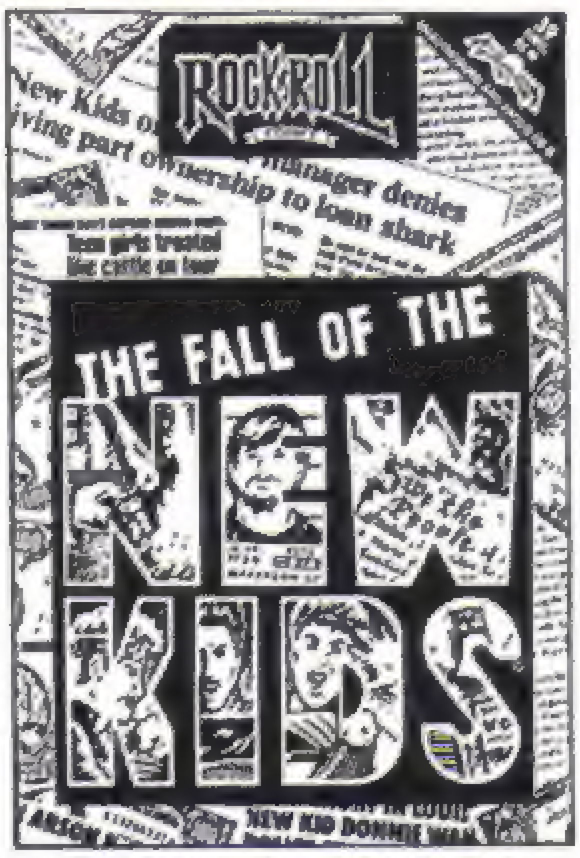
PINEAPPLE PERFUME 1
From our adult imprint, CARNAL COMICS, this is the essential book of fabulous babes! Adults only! October

CARNAL COMICS



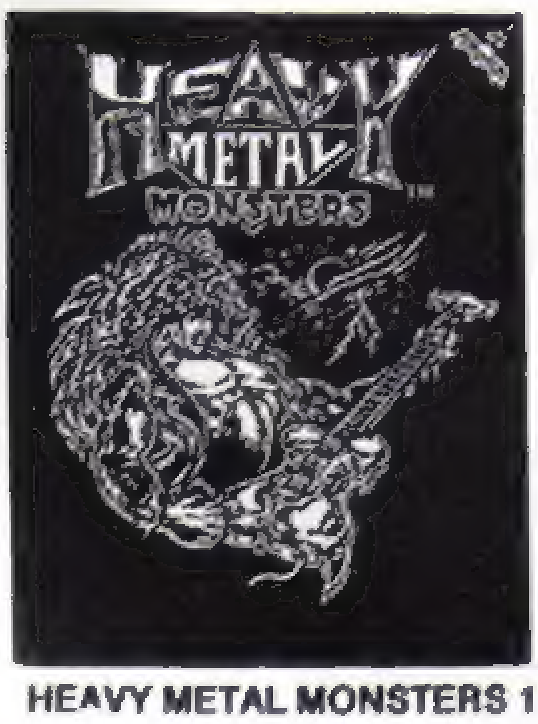
CONTEMPORARY BIO-GRAPHICS 1

CONTEMPORARY BIO-GRAPHICS 1
Featuring the story of Stan (the Man) Lee, Publisher of Marvel! Face front, true believers, it ships in October!



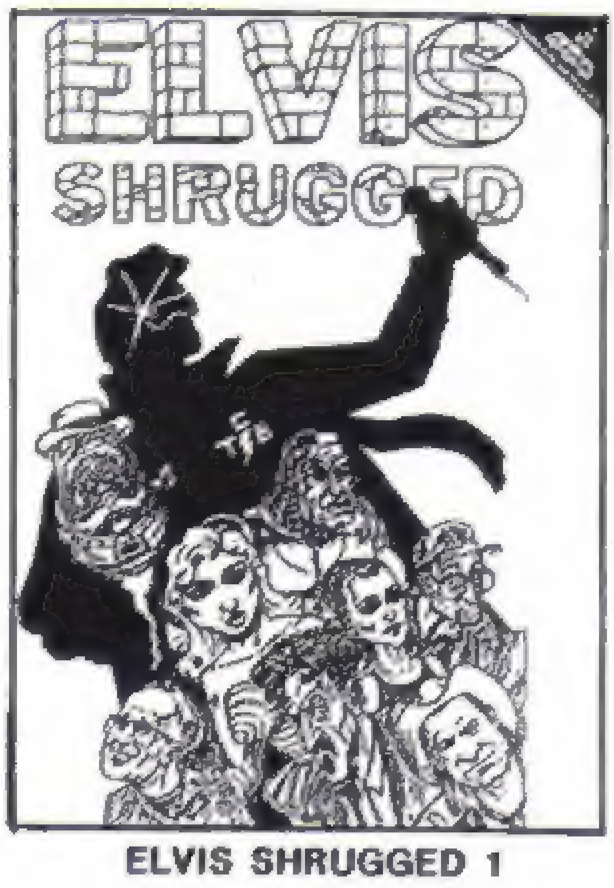
ROCK N' ROLL COMICS 39

ROCK N' ROLL COMICS 39
THE FALL OF THE NEW KIDS- Some people thought we couldn't publish this. THEY WERE WRONG! October.



HEAVY METAL MONSTERS 1

HEAVY METAL MONSTERS 1
An anthology of madness, mayhem and metal, rock n' roll dreams...and nightmares! November.



ELVIS SHRUGGED 1

ELVIS SHRUGGED 1
1997: Is Elvis Alive? Madonna wants to find out! She gets help from a bionic Frank Sinatra and...you'll see the rest in November! Part 1 of 3
DAVE GARCIA, artist

COMMITTED TO EXPANDING THE HORIZONS OF COMICS AS ART AND COMMUNICATION

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R.
E.
M.
LYNDAL FERGUSON